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FACTS ABOUT SOUTH SIOUX CITY FARMSTEADS

Jackson, Nebraska

Official Name: South Sioux City Farmsteads.

Location: In Dakota County, northeast Nebraska, one mile east of Jackson, 7 miles north of Dakota City, 6 miles west of South Sioux City, Nebraska, and 8 miles north of Sioux City, Iowa.

Number of Units: 22 houses and outbuildings consisting of a combination garage and cow barn, a poultry house and root cave for vegetables.

History of Project: The South Sioux City Farmsteads project was initiated by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration in September 1934, through the Nebraska Rehabilitation Corporation. The latter agency transferred the management of its assets to the Resettlement Administration on October 1, 1935.

Purpose of the Project: This project was designed to rehabilitate 22 families previously on the relief rolls of Dakota County by providing them with farm homes on which they could become self-supporting by individual production of garden and truck crops and by cooperative farming.

Project Description: The South Sioux City Farmsteads project is an agricultural community, built on a tract of 305 acres of land. Individual farming is carried out on units averaging 6.5 acres each. The principal crops to be raised are tomatoes, onions, cabbage, potatoes and other garden crops. Each unit has 100 hens and 300 chicks. A 145 acre tract has been set aside for the community farm which is being operated cooperatively by the homesteaders. On this tract, 30 acres of corn, 10 acres of oats with sweet clover, 20 acres of truck crops, and 20 acres of potatoes. Horses, cows and hogs are raised. Other cooperative facilities include a cannery to can surplus garden produce and a cooperative marketing and purchasing association.

House Description: All construction of the project is complete and 22 4-room frame houses have been built. Each consists of a dining room, kitchen and 2-bedrooms. None has bathroom or cellar.

The Homesteaders: Families selected for occupancy on this project all have low-income, agricultural backgrounds. They are part of that group in rural areas which was caught in the great economic depression and in practically every instance were farm laborers or tenants. Some of the men on the farmstead have specialized in poultry raising, truck gardening or like occupations and have been of great assistance in moulding general farmstead activities. In many instances farmsteaders were removed from submarginal areas where the Land Utilization Division had established projects. All homesteaders have definite farm backgrounds.

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